
**Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe, March 26,
1800, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe

Mar. 26. 1800

I thank you for the part of the 'Communication from the States,' which I received yesterday from you as I presume by the subscription of the latter; and will ask the residue (from page 48) when it appears. A great impression made here of the Resolutions of the Virga. legislature has been sold off, and dispersed into the other states. I inclose you an amendmt. proposed by W. C. Nicholas to the bill concerning the disputed elections of Presidt. & V.P. it is supposed it will be lost by about 17 to 13. Mr. Watson a Senator for N.Y. has resigned and it is said Gouv. Morris will come in his place. The Exve are sending off a vessel (a frigate) from N.Y. to France. The object has not transpired. Some conjecture it has been occasioned by the correspondence between the govmts. of France & England on the subject of peace.

A Mr. Irving from Boston has called on me several times, being introduced by a ltr from Mr. Saml Adams who vouched for his republicanism; and I found him zealous in it & well informed. He knew you in Paris, & endeavored there to obtain from you a certificate or protection of some sort as an American citizen, which however you were not satisfied to give he did not at all disapprove of your hesitation because he was sensible that other the then circumstances you might not be satisfied of his character. When he returned

Library of Congress

to England he published there your book with a spirited preface, in which he speaks of you in terms of great appreciation. He sent you a copy of it, which he learns from his correspondent was conveyed to you; & he spoke of you to me in the highest terms. Yet I perceived that your not having acknowledged the receipt of the book was felt by him. If from your own knowledge & view of this subject you seen an opportunity of dropping him a line, I think it would be very satisfactory to him, & that he is worthy of being satisfied. I expect we shall rise in May. I shall go through the Eastern shore by Norfolk & up the S. side of James river to Petersburg to Eppington, because the whole route will be through a country I have never yet seen. I say nothing of it to anybody because I do not wish to beget ceremony anywhere, or have any thing to do with it. For this reason I shall not call on you in Richmond, but go from Eppington

the direct road home. Besides my hatred of ceremony, I believe it better to avoid every occasion of the expression of sentiments which might drag me into the newspapers. I know that sometimes it is useful to furnish occasions for the flame of public opinion to break out from time to time; & that that opinion strengthens & rallies numbers in that way. The federal party have made powerful use of this. Yet I doubt whether we ought not to act solely on the slow but sure progress of good sense & attachment to republicanism, & build our fabric on a basis which can never give way. This is most consonant to my own opinion, & especially to my dislike of being the Mannequin of a ceremony. I shall therefore avoid Richmond. If I were sure you could silence altogether the supposed devoirs of hospitality, as well as all other friendly feelings & are nothing but the abstract question, whether my view of the subject is not best for the public as well as myself I would ask your opinion, through the first confidential conveyance. I should not have deliberated on it even in my own mind, but that my not paying a visit, when so near yourself & the city of Richmond, may be observed on by some. A judiciary bill is before the H. of R. which will add from 30 to 100 thousand dollars a year to the expence of that department. Accept assurances of my affectionate esteem. Present the same to Mrs. Monroe. Adieu

Library of Congress

FC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).